Talks on Tulbul Navigation Project

555. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India have sought fresh dates from Pakistan to discuss the issues relating to Tulbul Navigation Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Pakistan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Government had proposed dates to Pakistan for discussions on the Tulbul Navigation Project. The dates were not found suitable by Pakistan which was to communicate fresh dates to us. These are still awaited.

U.K. Policy Towards India

556. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the hitherto Tory Government's policy towards India with regard to political and economic relationship with Jammu and Kashmir issue;

(b) whether Government anticipate any change in the policy of the U. K. Government towards India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Tory Government have shown considerable goodwill and friendship towards India, and have been cooperating satisfactorily with India. They have supported India's recent economic reforms and encouraged British industry to increase investment and collaborations in India. On the Kashmir issue, the UK Government stands for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan under the Shimla Agreement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary Level Talks

557. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS b pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary level talks are likel to be delayed further; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when the talks are likely to be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The sixth round of Foreign Secretary level talks are expected to be held soon. Prior to these talks, discussions are also scheduled on the Tulbul Navigation Project, demarcation of boundary in the Sir Greek area and chemical weapons. The dates for these meetings are being worked out through diplomatic channels.

Relations with South Africa and Taiwan

558. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are moving more rapidly to establish relations with South Africa and Taiwan; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Government of India are constantly monitoring the situation in South Africa. The establishment of official relations with that country will depend on how soon the process of the dismantlement of apartheid can be deemed to have become irreversible and the progress towards the establishment of an interim government in South Africa.

There is no proposal to establish diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

Supply of Rice to Cuba

559. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA :

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India refused to supply 10,000 tonne of rice to Cuba, a member of Non-Aligned Movement ; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) The Government of Cuba had approached the Government of India in December 1991 for the supply of 500,000 tonnes wheat and 100,000 tonnes of rice on a deferred payment basis. Our own situation as regard wheat was such that we were not in a position to offer any quantities for export. However, in respect of rice we were able to offer 20,000 tonnes of which half could be supplied immediately and the remainder after assessing the winter crop.

The Cuban side requested for a credit of 365 days to pay for the proposed sale. However, because of our own budgetary constraints, we found we were not in a position to offer any credit at that time. We suggested that the Cuban side could offer us some commodity as a barter in exchange for the rice. They regretted their inability to offer any such commodity. Under the circumstances, it was not possible to finalise any deal with the representatives of the Cuban Government at that point of time.

Asylum by Indians in Germany

560. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in "the Pioneer" of 17th April, 1992 under the caption "54 Indians seek asylum in Germany";

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what are the circumstances under which these people reached Germany and who met their expenses;

(d) whether they have sought political asylum in Germany;

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(f) what steps Government have taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) On 13th April, 1992, 54 Indian nationals travelling from New Delhi via Warsaw, Moscow and Vienna to Brossels boarded a Malaysian Airlines flight at Brussels bound from Dubai, but disembarked during a stop-over at Frankfurt. They refused to produce their travel documents and later sought political asylum in Germany. They are now in the custody of German authorities who are conducting a preliminary inquiry which may last for another two weeks. Embassy officials are in touch with the German Foreign Office and German Interior Ministry on this matter. Further action will be taken after completion of inquiry.

Sending of Indian Troops to Cambodia under U.N.

561. SHRI KAPIL VERMA :

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the strength of Indian troops being sent to Cambodia as part of the UN transitionary authority;

(b) what are the terms and conditions for officers and jawans of this peace keeping force as decided by the Government; and